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make first-hand observations of the methods and the results of imprisonment of offenders, and has presented this treatise for the purpose of arousing the public mind to action in regard to the elimination of palpable social wrongs.

Beginning with the statement that "Imprisonment, its effects upon the prisoner and the prejudice it creates against him in the public mind" are the chief topics of consideration, he describes in graphic style the conditions of penal servitude and prison labor at Portland and other institutions, and shows the old archaic system now so thoroughly discredited has not yet been displaced even in enlightened England. This is the content of Part I.

Part II, labeled Preventive is a treatise of only one aspect of the subject of prevention—that of detection and identification of criminals. Chapters are devoted to the subjects of Bertillonage and the finger print, crime and the microscope, crime and the camera, the police dog, the jiu-jitsu for the police. These chapters are interesting and informing reading, but one may affirm as certainly of these as the author does of the prison, that the efficacy of these methods perfected to ever so high a degree would have little or no perceptible influence in the diminution of crime. If the prison itself is no deterrent, it is hard to see how a system that would result in putting more men into prison would increase its value as a preventive.

Part III contains two excellent chapters on the futility of flogging and the inequality of sentences but its chief burden is the demonstration of the failure of imprisonment, either to diminish crime or to work the reformation of the criminal. He regards the prison as "the tragi-comedy of our day," graduating the offender to a criminal career, and branding him with a stigma that makes it impossible for him ever to have a fair chance for normal life. The greatest condemnation of the prison is the absolute lack of confidence on the part of the public in its product. Chapter XX, entitled New Horizons, is the only constructive portion of the book. Here the author sketches the outline of a real system of "prevention" through the treatment of the causes of crime; the abandonment of retaliative and retributive punishment; the methods of rehabilitation of the offender.

The book is neither logical in its treatment nor comprehensive, and its title is something of a misnomer, yet it contains much valuable material and will tend further to render unpopular our scientifically discredited system of penal servitude.

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BAERLEIN, HENRY. *Mexico: The Land of Unrest*. Pp. xxiv, 461. Price, \$3.75. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1913.

Existing confusion in the public mind with reference to the Mexican situation is traceable very largely to the fact that but few persons are acquainted with the antecedents of the present situation. The long period of anarchy which followed closely on the heels of the Declaration of Independence; the successive attempts to establish popular government in the absence of any of the elements upon which popular government must rest, and finally the adoption in 1853 of a constitution far in advance of the political training and

preparation of the people: these are all elements in the Mexican situation which tend to explain present conditions.

The work of Mr. Baerlein is a valuable adjunct to the study of present conditions. In his capacity as correspondent of the *London Times* he visited many different sections of the country. His keen sense of dramatic contrasts enables him to paint an exceedingly vivid picture of conditions prevailing during the long presidency of Porfirio Diaz.

The author has evidently concentrated his attention on the shortcomings of the Diaz administration. He fails to take into account the fact that during its early years, the fundamental problem was to establish something approaching order throughout the confines of the Republic. In the accomplishment of this purpose some ruthless measures were no doubt adopted, but it must also be borne in mind that the national administration had to deal with a lawless element which, while not forming any considerable percentage of the total population, was able to create a feeling of insecurity throughout the country.

The author dwells at length on the mistakes of the Diaz administration and the corruption which existed amongst officials. As to the extent of such corruption there are wide differences of opinion. It is true that influential persons were able to secure special concessions and franchises and amassed large fortunes through such special privileges. It is also true that large land owners were able to increase the extent of their holdings at the expense of their weaker neighbors. Opposition to the Diaz régime, especially if it took the form of political agitation, was ruthlessly suppressed.

All of these facts are brought out with great clearness by the author, but he fails to point out one of the most important shortcomings of the policy of President Diaz, namely the failure clearly to appreciate the fact that the development of the country's wealth did not necessarily mean a corresponding advance in its welfare. Porfirio Diaz concentrated his efforts on the utilization of the natural resources of the country, but he failed to accompany his efforts in this direction with the proper safeguards to the interests of the working classes. While, therefore, the country advanced rapidly in wealth during his administration, the condition of the farm laborers and miners did not show a corresponding improvement.

In spite of a certain lack of proportion the book of Mr. Baerlein is a valuable contribution to a study of the antecedents of the present situation in Mexico.

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CHAPIN, F. STUART. *Introduction to the Study of Social Evolution*. Pp. xix, 306. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Century Company, 1913.

This book is an attempt to present in usable form the more elementary aspects of biological and anthropological material of social evolution for elementary classes in sociology. Part I with three chapters on variation and heredity, struggle for existence and the origin and antiquity of man presents the essential phases of organic evolution. Part II with six chapters on association, the influences of physical environment, social heredity,